--2.   (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when no suitable rules exist in the rule accumulation part a part that starts a corresponding application to execute the message conversion processing is included.

--3.   (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the message conversion part converts the message into a prescribed format according to a transmission origin of the message and contents of the message.

--4.   (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the message conversion part specifies a transmission destination of the message according to a transmission origin of the message and contents of the message.

--5.   (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the message conversion part performs automatic protocol conversion according to a message transmission destination specified according to a transmission origin of the message and contents of the message.

--6.   (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the message conversion part executes encryption processing that corresponds to a message

transmission destination that is specified according to a transmission origin of the message and contents of the message.

--7. (Amended) An information processing apparatus for processing a transmission message among a plurality of sites connected via a network, the apparatus comprising:

a message broker that commits to an application processing of data that becomes necessary when message conversion is performed among the plurality of sites;

a message translator that performs mutual conversion between message formats according to a prescribed conditional sentence in response to an arrival of a field serving as a trigger in a message format;

a message router that adds a destination address to the message according to a prescribed piece of identification information contained in the message;

a B2B connector that provides a message exchange interface between a system and a site outside the system; and

a gateway that provides a local message exchange interface between the system and a local site inside the system.

--8. (Amended) An information processing method for processing a transmission message among a plurality of sites connected via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message to execute a prescribed

piece of reception processing;

accumulating a plurality of rules for executing pieces of message processing;

executing message conversion processing according to the plurality of rules accumulated by the accumulating step; and

executing a prescribed piece of transmission processing of the converted message.

--9.   (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

starting a corresponding application to execute message conversion processing when no suitable rules are accumulated.

--10.   (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 8, wherein in the message conversion processing the message is converted into a prescribed format according to a transmission origin of the message and contents of the message.

--11.   (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 8, wherein in the message conversion processing a message transmission destination is specified according to a transmission origin of the message and contents of the message.

--12.   (Amended) The information processing method

according to claim 8, wherein in the message conversion processing automatic protocol conversion is performed in correspondence with a message transmission destination specified according to a transmission origin of the message and contents of the message.

--13.   (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 8, wherein in the message conversion processing encryption processing is executed in correspondence with a message transmission destination specified according to a transmission origin of the message and contents of the message.

--14.   (Amended) An information processing method for processing a transmission message among a plurality of sites connected via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

committing to an application processing of data that becomes necessary when message conversion is performed among the respective sites;

performing mutual conversion between message formats according to a prescribed conditional sentence in response to an arrival of a field serving as a trigger in a message format;

adding a destination address to the message according to a prescribed piece of identification information contained in the message;

providing a message exchange interface between a system

6

and a site outside the system; and

   providing a message exchange interface between the system and a local site inside the system.

   --15.   (Amended) A network system including a plurality of sites each two of which are connected via a communication network, wherein message exchange between arbitrary sites is controlled by a prescribed server, and the network system as its interior processing parts on the prescribed server, the network system comprising:

   a message reception part that receives a message to execute a prescribed piece of reception processing;

   a rule accumulation part that accumulates a plurality of rules for executing pieces of message processing;

   a message conversion part that executes message conversion processing according to the plurality of rules accumulated in the rule accumulation part; and

   a message transmission part that executes a prescribed piece of transmission processing of the converted message.

   --16.   (Amended) The network system according to claim 15, further comprising a part that starts a corresponding application on the prescribed server to execute message conversion processing when no suitable rules exist in the rule accumulation part.

   --17.   (Amended) The network system according to claim

15, wherein the message conversion part converts the message
into a prescribed format according to a transmission origin of
the message and contents of the message.

--18.   (Amended) The network system according to claim
15, wherein the message conversion part specifies a message
transmission destination according to a transmission origin of
the message and contents of the message.

--19.   (Amended) The network system according to claim
15, wherein the message conversion part performs automatic
protocol conversion according to a message transmission
destination specified according to a transmission origin of
the message and contents of the message.

--20.   (Amended) The network system according to claim
15, wherein the message conversion part performs encryption
processing in correspondence with a message transmission
destination specified according to a transmission origin of
the message and contents of the message.

--21.   (Amended) A network system including a plurality
of sites each two of which are connected via a communication
network, wherein message exchange between arbitrary sites is
controlled by a prescribed server, and
the network system as its interior processing parts on the
prescribed server, the network system comprising:

a message broker that commits to a prescribed application on the server processing of data that becomes necessary when message conversion is performed between the plurality of sites;

a message translator that performs mutual exchange between the message formats according to a prescribed conditional sentence in response to an arrival of a field serving as a trigger in a message format;

a message router that adds a destination address to the message according to a prescribed piece of identification information contained in the message;

a B2B connector that provides a message exchange interface between a system and a site outside the system; and

a gateway that provides the message exchange interface between the system and a local site inside the system.

--22. (Amended) A recording medium having stored in a computer-readable form computer software described so that processing of a transmission message among a plurality of sites connected via a network is executed on a computer system, the computer software comprising the steps of:

receiving a message to execute a prescribed piece of reception processing;

accumulating a plurality of rules for executing the message processing;

executing message conversion processing according to a corresponding one of the plurality of rules accumulated by the

rule accumulation step; and

executing a prescribed piece of transmission processing of the converted message.

--23. (Amended) A computer program for executing on a computer system processing of a transmission message among a plurality of sites connected via a network, comprising:

a message reception routine that receives a message to execute a prescribed piece of reception processing;

a rule accumulation routine that accumulates a plurality of rules for executing the message processing;

a message conversion routine that executes message conversion processing according to a corresponding one of the plurality of rules accumulated by said rule accumulation routine; and

a message transmission routine that executes a prescribed piece of transmission processing of the converted message.

--24. (Amended) An information processing apparatus for processing a signal including message information, the apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving the signal to execute a prescribed piece of reception processing;

accumulating means for accumulating a plurality of rules used for processing message information included in the received signal;

executing means for executing the message information

conversion processing using the plurality of rules accumulated by the accumulation means; and

post-conversion executing means for executing a prescribed piece of transmission processing of the converted message information.

--25.   (Amended) An information processing method for processing a signal including message information, comprising the steps of:

receiving the signal to execute a prescribed piece of reception processing;

accumulating a plurality of rules used for processing message information included in the received signal in a rule accumulation part;

executing conversion processing of the message information using the plurality of rules accumulated in the rule accumulation part; and

executing a prescribed piece of reception processing of the converted message information.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 remain in the application and have been amended hereby.

As will be noted from the Declaration, Applicants are citizens and residents of Japan and this application originated there.

Accordingly, the amendments to the specification are made